

**Illinois Early Learning Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
August 28, 2017, 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

Chicago, ISBE Video-Teleconference Room (100 W. Randolph St., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Springfield, ISBE Video-teleconference Room (100 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St)

Call in: (888)494-4032 Access Code: 6113045703

**Minutes**

Chicago: Samantha Aigner-Treworgy, Karen Berman, Gaylord Gieseke, Phyllis Glink, Cornelia Grumman, Dan Harris, Kimberly Mann, Geoff Nagel, Andrea Palmer, Sylvia Puente, Cynthia Tate, Maria Whelan, Josie Yanguas

Springfield: Shauna Ejeh, Barb Payne, Kristy Dolan

Phone: George Davis, Teri Talan Lynn Burgett

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Co-Chairs Cynthia Tate and Phyllis Glink called the meeting to order. (Secretary Purvis was unable to attend due to other pressing matters). They thanked everyone for coming and then asked all the Committee members to introduce themselves. A motion was made for the approval of the minutes from the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

**2. IAT-ELC-OECD Roles, Responsibilities, and Rules of Engagement**

Elizabeth Cole gave an update on her work to more clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the Early Learning Council (ELC), Inter-Agency Team (IAT), and the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD). At the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting when Elizabeth presented this work, Diana Rauner brought up the need to also align on rules of engagement, which Elizabeth understood to be how ELC members interact with each other. Phyllis suggested that once the rules of engagement are finalized, Erin Liedell, Business Manager at OECD, should make sure these are included in meeting materials for each meeting as a reminder.

Elizabeth presented an updated draft of the roles and responsibilities of the three groups, in which the GOECD's role is to fuel system with expertise and specific initiatives that hop across state agencies, to provide leadership on issues relevant across agencies, and to support and coordinate work of ELC, overall serving in a leadership capacity. In the draft, the ELC's role is to be the holder of vision, surface issues on the ground, provide expertise and perspective used to inform state policies, and to be the public face of early childhood, overall serving in an advisory capacity. In the draft, the IAT's role is to provide a confidential space without private sector partners where state reps can share best practices, align approaches, and take recommendations of the council and figure out how they will be interpreted on the ground, overall serving in a "on-the-ground decision-maker" capacity.

Council members provided feedback on the draft. Gaylord Gieseke suggested that the work of various ELC committees was missing from the set of descriptors in the draft. Andrea Palmer shared that there is a fragmentation in the discussion and recommendations of committees and what gets implemented at the agency level, because the information from the committee doesn't always go to the right agency decision-maker. Cynthia suggested that is something GOECD can facilitate, and that one of the goals of the new format for IAT reporting is to close loop between the IAT and ELC. Phyllis Glink suggested to add arrows going each way between the three bodies, showing dynamic activity between the bodies.

Elizabeth Cole then presented her draft of the rules of engagement, which included maintaining a culture of mutual respect, embracing diverse viewpoints, identifying conflicts of interest and recusing oneself, and keeping information confidential until made public. For public members, it included valuing the expertise and advocacy of private members. For private members, it included maintaining reasonable expectations of public members. There was also an attendance requirement that the ELC could choose to hold each other accountable to, and criteria for committee reports to the Executive Committee.

Council members provided feedback on the rules of engagement draft. Cynthia added that there has been shifts in the Executive Committee agenda structure after feedback that there is not always enough time for ELC committee reports. Committee reports will now happen towards the beginning of executive committee meetings, and will include a required action so that Executive Committee members know exactly what the presenting Committee needs from them. State agencies will also be asked to answer specific questions in their reports to the Executive Committee. This means that committee co-chairs need to look at the three stages in Elizabeth's draft to ensure it's the right time to bring an update or issue to the Executive Committee. The intention is to make the Executive Committee into deliberative decision-making body. Phyllis Glink suggested that when something is approved, the committee that is presenting also has timeline and/or next steps for moving to implementation, so it can go to the IAT. Andrea Palmer added that it would be helpful for state agencies if there were concrete requests from committees. Ideally, relevant agency members are on the committee and/or have been consulted to determine the feasibility of the action.

Cornelia Grumman asked if the ELC develops the vision and if it gets intentionally revisited periodically. Elizabeth responded that last year, the ELC set the vision. In this model, GOECD plays more of a staff partnership role to set the vision collaboratively. Cornelia pointed out that the vision is connected to ELC committee work in some ways. Karen Berman mentions that the ELC helps to create the vision, supports the vision, and can also be voice for the vision. Cynthia suggested that the draft be changed so that instead of GOECD holding the vision, they co-create and advance the vision. George Davis agreed that the expectation of GOECD is not to dictate the vision, but to facilitate the creation of the vision.

Phyllis Glink suggested that at the next meeting, the Committee spend time discussing softer rules of engagement related to ways of being. Karen Berman mentioned that in 2013 there was discussion about governance rules like defining attendance and Open Meetings Act compliance, but nothing was finalized. Maria Whelan pointed out that there are legal requirements around public meetings, and suggested that a group convene to discuss governance rules and report back to the Executive Committee at the next meeting. She suggested that the group include herself, Karen Berman, Kim Collins at Illinois Action For Children, and Erin Liedell at GOECD.

Gaylord Gieseke mentioned that the Home Visiting Task Force has seen value in their welcoming approach. She said that allowing anyone to sit at table has been a strength of the task force. She suggested that the group take into consideration.

### **3. Quality Committee update on SB1829 recommendations**

Dan Harris, co-chair of the Quality Committee, presented an update on the Quality Committee's recommendations related to SB1829. SB1829 was introduced in general assembly this spring. It offers an alternative to Type 04 certification to address challenges faced by CBOs, particularly in underserved areas, in getting qualified teachers. Senator Toi Hutchinson asked the ELC for recommendations related to SB1829, and at the last Executive Committee meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>, an Ad Hoc committee was formed. The Ad Hoc committee has since had 6 meetings, averaging over 30 attendees, and Dan thanked the participants for their engagement and contributions to the final recommendations that were presented to the full Quality Committee on August 8. Those recommendations were unanimously accepted by all 54 participants. Dan then presented the short-term recommendation, which is to allow (a) teachers with a current Illinois Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential Level 5 and (b) teachers with a provisional Type 29 Transitional Bilingual License who have also passed the ECE content test or have 9 semester hours of ECE course content to teach in PFA programs, giving them 5 years to obtain a PEL with ECE endorsement. There were also long-term solutions that were beyond the scope of work, given the short time frame. The recommendations would be put into place by an administrative resolution through ISBE. Lynn Burgett from ISBE informed the Committee that the recommendations have already been discussed with ISBE's licensure department, and they are reasonable as far as ISBE is concerned.

Sylvia Puente asked what this proposed rule change would do to the supply of teachers. Dan Harris responded that there are currently 3500 teachers in Illinois who hold an Illinois Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential Level 5. Dan stated that there isn't data around teachers with a provisional Type 29 Transitional Bilingual License who have passed the ECE content test or have 9 semester hours of ECE course content, but they would continue working to get more data.

Maria Whelan reminded the Committee that research suggests that certified teachers matter, specifically to most the most vulnerable children and communities, and encouraged the Committee to view this as a stop-gap. She shared that she hopes that the Committee continues to focus on compensation and benefits, and reasons why people don't stay or start in the field. Terri Talan mentioned that she hopes it will light a fire to create alternative pathways to get the PEL in order to give people the economic security that Maria referred to.

Samantha Aigner-Treworgy mentioned there was a phase-in for Type 04s when it was implemented, and in Chicago, people were not prepared at the deadline because they had not been working on the phase-in. There is a need to build supervisors' capacity and determine how you get someone through the system by the 5-year deadline so we don't end up losing people because we weren't preparing them for the shift.

Bethany Patton, Workforce Policy Director at OECD, shared that this work is one sub-strategy of the Children's Cabinet's workforce project, and that can serve as a place to operationalize these recommendations, develop toolkit for supervisors, and make sure there's a clean crosswalk from level 5 to PEL.

Sylvia Puente asked who the recommendation goes to. Dan Harris said that based on what Senator Hutchinson said in the letter, since it is an administrative solution, the recommendation goes to ISBE. Cynthia Tate noted that there should also be a response back to the Senator.

A motion was made to approve the recommendations. The motion was seconded and the recommendations were unanimously approved by the Committee.

Cynthia Tate shifted the conversation to when CCAP eligibility will return to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), as this was brought up in the last Quality Committee meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Barb Payne of DHS responded that she had inquired about that but did not have an answer yet.

Gail Norse, VP of Illinois Policy at the Ounce of Prevention Fund, mentioned that it was The Ounce's understanding that once the full-year state budget was passed, the eligibility automatically changed back to 185% of FPL, and it must be a notice from DHS. Karen Berman asked Barb Payne if it would be helpful for the ELC to submit a letter about triggering a restoration of the 185 FLP eligibility requirement. Barb said that if the Executive Committee would like to put something forward it would be fine.

#### **4. Access Committee Update on Principles & Practices Subcommittee**

Maria Whelan, co-chair of the Access Committee, gave an update on the Principles and Practices Subcommittee, which has had a focus on Awards of Excellence (AOE) and becoming an expert source around engagement with families and communities. It's first major task was the development of AOE standards for family and community engagement. It's second major task was creating an inventory of professional development for family engagement, which led to the development and sharing of family engagement resource materials, housed at INCCRRA. It's third major task was to develop a community engagement framework, which included conducting literature review, and defining community engagement in a way that resonates in the early childhood field. The outcome was a document to define community engagement. Finally, the committee will soon spend time talking about vision and strategy in the community engagement space. Once that's finished, the work that was prescribed by council will be complete. A motion was made to thank the members of the Principles and Practices subcommittee and then disband the committee, with the knowledge that if additional work is identified, the Committee knows where to find the members. The motion was seconded and then was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Maria also mentioned that the Family Engagement Ad Hoc subcommittee will be spending time at the next full Access Committee meeting talking about the recommendations adopted at the June 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting, including how to manage the no-cost piloting of phase II of the recommendations. She also gave an update that the All Families Served Subcommittee is expanding conversations around priority populations, looking at possible additions to address addiction, trauma, and refugee status.

#### **5. Integration & Alignment Committee update on learning opportunities from FY18 ECBG RFP process**

Shauna Ejah, co-chair of the Integration and Alignment Committee, asked Executive Committee members to give input on what information from the current RFP process would be most helpful to capture in order to support ISBE with future RFP processes. She mentioned that this RFP process is somewhat new, and that providers are completing proposals how they are used to completing them.

Sylvia Puente suggested a heat map of need throughout the state, including racial and ethnic diversity, and plotted against that, where applicants are coming in to serve people. She pointed out that there aren't always organizations that can provide services where there is need. A heat map could provide a better understanding of that. Sylvia also mentioned analysis that shows that while low-income children in Illinois are split relatively evenly between Chicago, suburbs, and downstate, 56% of low-income Latino community are in the suburbs. George Davis pointed out that expansion has proceeded with Race To The Top and Preschool Development Grant dollars through the state, but there is a reduction in the number of children served through Head Start. He said that at a Region 5 meeting he learned that across the Great Lakes region, there was a 25,000 decline in children served in Head Start, with enough slots to go around in some places, and oversaturation in other places. He suggested that this is a factor to consider when determining where the need is. Sylvia Puente pointed out the need to be mindful about what geographic unit is used, emphasizing the need to go beyond municipality or zip code, using census tract if possible. She said this is especially important with suburban communities that appear to be affluent but have a high level of economic diversity within that community, and gave Aurora and Addison as examples.

Gaylord Gieseke suggested plotting trends on which questions don't seem to elicit the answer that was intended or where there seems to be weaknesses in applicants' capacity to respond. She said that it is often easy to discern when the organization is big enough that they have grant writers versus organizations that are doing their best but don't have that level of expertise and sophistication. Maria Whelan cautioned that this is a very complicated program and capable operators are needed. Phyllis Glink clarified that she didn't think anyone was suggesting watering down the RFP, but just considering context and seeing if there are patterns.

## **6. Home Visiting Taskforce Update on Home Visiting System Strategic Plan & Increasing Collaboration between Home Visiting and Early Intervention Systems**

Gaylord Gieseke, co-chair of the Home Visiting Task Force (HVTF) started with an update on the strategic planning process, which will update the vision and plans that were set in FY15, as the landscape has changed. The home visiting field got some restoration of DHS funding, but several programs have curtailed or shut down. The future of the MIECHV federal funding is very much at risk, with the end-of-September deadline fast approaching. Illinois has added several innovative approaches, such as mental health consultation, enhanced training on domestic violence and substance abuse, Illinois family connects, and the Home Visiting Child Welfare Pilot. Jim Dimas and Diane Grigsby-Jackson at DHS, Teresa Kelly at GOECD, and Penny Smuth at ISBE all agree on the necessity of a new needs assessment. There was a thorough assessment done in 2009-2010 with Chapin Hall. Gaylord mentioned that all three groups will participate in underwriting the needs assessment, with the hope that Chapin Hall picks it up again.

Gaylord then updated the Committee on the HVTF's second initiative, collaboration and partnership with the Early Intervention (EI) system. The Inter-Agency Council on EI and HVTF now have cross-representatives and have cross-educated each group. They are in the planning process to bring another cross-systems group together for a joint meeting to determine shared action steps and recommendations. Gaylord said that if anyone is interested in joining, they should let Anna Potere know.

## **7. IDHS Update on License-Exempt Monitoring and Health and Safety Training**

Barb Payne of DHS first gave updates on License-Exempt Monitoring initiative. Barb shared that the candidate pool turned out to be very accomplished, and as of August 18<sup>th</sup>, 49 monitors out of the TANF and SNAP candidate pool had been hired, as well as two supervisory positions. They are continuing to identify candidates and screen them. Maria Whelan shared that DHS has done stunning job of identifying people. For many candidates, this is their first job with comprehensive benefits and a schedule that they control. They are currently offered at least a \$27,000/year salary.

Barb Payne then gave an update on the health and safety training. There are 426,802 level 1 modules, which count towards federal health and safety training requirement, that have been completed within the last 5 years. Over 170,000 ECE Level 1 Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 modules have been completed since April 2017. Barb did not have final numbers for completion, but was working to get those.

Maria Whelan pointed out that in Cook County, about 39% of licensed center providers in the registry have completed tier 1, but when CPR and mandated reporting is added it drops to 5%. For regulated family child care, there is 38% completion, but it also drops when CPR and first aid training are added. Her data for Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers shows 11% completion. Maria said they do plan to use license exempt monitors over coming weeks to reach out in robust way, but she believes there needs to be some contingency planning, especially since about 20-25% of Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers do not know how to use a computer. Maria asked if DHS had thought about eliminating people who are not required to take the training. Barb Payne responded that DHS wants to get a better drill-down of numbers and hoped to have this data by the end of today or tomorrow. She said they had reduced the training requirements for school-age care. She also said that DHS was talking with their federal liaison to find out what flexibility exists for the 90-day orientation period. She said that once they had the completion number, they would talk with the Director and Secretary to determine how much time would be needed to ensure completion. Barb emphasized that they don't want to lose providers.

Cynthia Tate asked what happens with providers who don't complete the training within deadline. Barb responded that according to the law, barring any contingency plan, providers who have not completed requirement can no longer be payed as CCAP provider.

Phyllis Glink pointed out that the July Childcare Advisory Committee meeting was not held and asked how the department was using that group. Barb responded that many of the members' membership had expired, so the Secretary will send out letters to new people as soon as a date is finalized. She said there has been a scheduling issue in getting a date that works for the Secretary, but confirmed that the Childcare Advisory Committee was going to be reinstituted by October. Cornelia Grumman mentioned that it would make sense to determine dates for entire year when the October date is determined, to avoid this problem in the future. She also asked if DHS had a best prediction of the impact, given that it was 33 days away from the deadline. Barb responded that she could not say today, but once they had the completion numbers and she heard back from the federal liaison about any flexibility with the deadline, they would create a contingency plan if needed. Maria Whelan pointed out that virtually no state has figured this out, and she believes that the federal government is beginning to get the message that they need to be flexible. Barb shared that 44 states that have not implemented health and safety training, and that some states have decided that they're not going to allow relatives to apply to be providers because of the federal regulations around health and safety training. She also mentioned that DHS is working with Dan Harris from INCCRRA to get data from the Gateways registry.

Phyllis Glink noted that there are people with more questions, and suggests a possible conference call where DHS can answer more questions about the health and safety training. Samantha Aigner-Treworgy suggested that ISBE be part of that call, since this impacts PFA and Head Start funding.

#### **8. ISBE Update on ECBG RPFs and KIDS Assessment**

Kristy Doan from IBE gave an update on behalf of Lynn Burgett about the ECBG Request For Proposals (RFP). She mentioned that proposals are due on September 18 at 4pm, and that more information can be found on the ISBE website. She shared that the Prevention Initiative (PI) RFP has not been released but it is with eGrants designers. When it comes out depends on agency priorities, but they are hoping to release it very soon. In FY19, ISBE will release a full re-compete in the fall.

Phyllis Glink asked if sites can they use information from their FY18 proposal for the full compete in FY19, given how close the deadlines will be. Kristy Doan responded that she could not comment on details, but providers will be able to use some information for both.

Cynthia Tate asked if Community Systems Development TA was going to be awarded. Kristy responded that she couldn't say more than that it was a procurement issue, but people could reach out to Craig Foxall with questions.

Kristy Doan then gave an update on the KIDS assessment. She shared that there is statewide implementation this school year. There is a new website up with resources for parents and teachers, located on the ISBE early childhood page on new KIDS tab.

Karen Berman asked what the likelihood was that the FY19 re-compete will realistically come out next fall, given the delays in the timeline for FY18 RFPs. She shared that she is getting feedback from communities that they set dates to convene everyone to work on the proposal and then it gets delayed. Kristy shared that ISBE is still hopeful that they will be able to maintain the current timeline for FY19, but depending on when the PI RFP comes out, the timing might be off. She said she would take that back to Lynn Burgett.

#### **9. IDPH Update on PA 99-0927 Legislation on Developmental/Social-Emotional Screening**

Andrea Palmer of IDPH gave an update about the new legislation on developmental and social-emotional screening. This legislation requires a check box on the school physical form that only indicates whether the child has had a screen. Physicians may summarize conditions that indicate the need for special services for developmental screen only. Schools may offer screening to a child with parental consent. Andrea shared that this can't be implemented until there are administrative rules and guidelines for schools and medical professionals, and that task was placed with IDPH. IDPH is engaging key stakeholders to participate in an advisory capacity, and asking internal state agencies to identify their existing processes to ensure that they create rules that are consistent with current practice. She mentioned that IDPH hoped to schedule first meeting in September, after which they will draft rules, and they will need to go before the board of public health, and then to the Secretary of State for public comment.

Andrea pointed out that the legislation affords every child an opportunity to be screened at regular intervals and sets stage for infrastructure that will support children with developmental an social-emotional needs, but does not provide support for schools or heartcare care providers in implementing

the screening. It also does not address any steps to be taken if screening indicates developmental or social-emotional delays.

Phyllis Glink shared a concern that this will result in delays being identified without knowing what to do with that information. Karen Burman mentioned that these screenings are already required, but this legislation requires that screening is shared on a school form. Gaylord Gieseke mentioned the need for future action to determine what the follow-up should be from families and pedestrians after any delays are identified. Cynthia Tate shared that there is a Developmental Screening initiative that GOECD, IDPH, and the ELC co-sponsored that had a meeting in December 2016. The group intends to bring trauma lens to state infrastructure. We need to determine what places are screening, what are they doing, what data do we have, what data do we need, and do we have capacity in system to respond to the screening.

#### **10. McCormick Foundation Executive Fellows Program at Erikson**

Cristina Pacione-Zayas presented on the McCormick Foundation Executive Fellows Program at Erikson. This is an executive-level program designed for highly-influential, cross-sector leaders and representing diversity in sector, race, tenure, and geography. Cristina shared that the goal of the program was for fellows to identify opportunities to lead, intervene, and advocate on behalf of children and families in Illinois. Program components included two multi-day seminars, visits to early childhood sites in Chicago, and unlimited access to online program resources. There was a service day where fellows got a job description and got to work, leading many fellows to ask why people in those jobs get paid a rate where they are on public assistance. Cristina shared that there will be a call for nominations for the next cohort in January 2018. Cristina asked members to follow up with any nominations or suggestions for presenters.

#### **11. Announcements (20 min)**

Karen Berman announced two new co-chairs for the Health Subcommittee of the Integration & Alignment Committee. This subcommittee is focused on promoting enrollment in high-quality early childhood through health providers. The two new co-chairs are Sessy Nyman, Executive Director at EverThrive, and Kathy Chan, from the Cook County Health and Hospitals System.

Cynthia Tate shared the dates for the full Early Learning Council: November 20, 2017, February 26, 2018, and June 18, 2018. She mentioned that Erin Liedell, Business Manager at GOECD, is making sure that the meeting schedule is current on website for the full council, Executive Committee, and all other committees and subcommittees. She pointed out the need to Determine whether to continue to have that same time, 11am-2pm, and location, Roosevelt University, considering the interest in involving family members in the council. Phyllis Glink suggested that the family engagement committee come back with a recommendation.

Cynthia Tate then shared that in the statute for the Early Learning Council it states that an annual report needs to be completed. GOECD is starting the process of compiling a 2017 Annual Report and Erin Liedell will be reaching out to committee co-chair and staffers for progress based on each committee's outlined priority areas.

Phyllis Glink gave an update on the Mental Health Consultation Initiative. Illinois Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consulting Initiative (I/EMHC) is a public-private partnership with every child and family serving system at the table. It explores how to take scale a high-quality model across the state for



childcare and preschool. Phase 1 involved conducting a scan of the current I/EMHC workforce, developing a leadership team, developing a shared vision, and developing a theory of change for how to develop a sustainable, cross-sector, public/private partnership to expand access to mental health consultation in Illinois. Phase 2 involved finalizing the I/ECMH model, creating a workforce development plan, conducting a process evaluation, creating a pilot evaluation design, and developing a pilot to be implemented in Phase III. Phase III is set to begin in October, with implementation of the pilot from October 2017 to March 2020. There will need to be site selection, readiness assessment, training for consultants, and orientations for supervisors. In the final 6 months, there will be evaluation of classroom quality, changes in teacher practice, and changes in child and family behavior. Phyllis mentioned that they are looking to do the pilot in 2 urban communities and 2 rural communities. Chicago and Peoria probably. There will be a total of 24 sites, which includes 16 intervention sites and 8 control group sites. Programs will include home visiting, childcare, and early education sites. RFPs went out and leadership group is close to making decisions. Phyllis shared that funding has primarily come from the private sector, although the public sector has been at table. The intention is to get scale the model using the public sector. Phyllis pointed out that this initiative relates to the recently passed Preschool Expulsion Bill, as mental health consultation is one way to address challenging behavior. ISBE has included mental health consultation as requirement for the expansion grant, and IDPH is doing parallel pilot initiative to integrate mental health consultation into their system.

Phyllis Glink then gave some brief information on the Risk and Reach Report. This report is a companion to the budget. She pointed out that Jeff Nagel was the first to do this in Louisiana. It is an important and helpful tool because it can provide context for a budget and compares funding to need. The report won't reinvent the wheel, it will use work that's already been done. Phyllis noted that it is only in the early discussion phase.

## **12. Adjourn**